

Serial No. 10/542,165

Attorney Docket No. 02-152-TN

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-11, and 13 are pending. Claims 2 and 12 have been canceled. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claim 8 was said to be indefinite in that the term "the terminal sealing member" lacked antecedent basis. Claim 8 has been amended to introduce a terminal sealing member. Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-4 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but were said to contain allowable subject matter if written in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2. Claims 3 and 4 have written in independent form and now include the limitations of original claim 1. Therefore, claims 1, 3 and 4 should be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1 and 5-12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kajima et al.* in view of *Matsuyama*. Claim 12 has been canceled and thus will not be discussed. As for claims 1 and 5-11, the applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claim 1 now includes the limitations of claim 2 and is considered to be in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Claims 5-11 depend on claim 1, directly or indirectly, and thus should be in condition for allowance.

Serial No. 10/542,165

Attorney Docket No. 02-152-TN

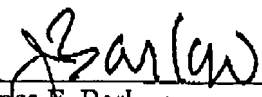
New claim 13 is similar to amended claim 1. However, in claim 13, the "connector supporting member" has been replaced with a "receiving member." The cited references do not show or suggest the receiving member as claimed in claim 13.

In claim 13, the receiving member is formed into a tubular body and includes an annular flange portion. The annular flange portion protrudes outward from an outer peripheral surface of the receiving member. The installation opening sealing member is interposed between the flange portion and the outer surface of the speed reducing mechanism receiving portion. The speed reducing mechanism receiving portion is located around the connector installation opening. These features are not shown or suggested by Kajima *et al.* or Matsuyama taken individually or in combination. Therefore, claim 13 is considered to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

  
James E. Barlow  
Reg. No. 32,377

Posz Law Group, PLC  
12040 South Lakes Drive, Suite 101  
Reston, VA 20191  
Phone 703-707-9110  
Fax 703-707-9112  
Customer No. 23400